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"ENDORRED."

TO THE EDITORS OF MOD. LANG. NOTES :

SIRS:—WRIGHT'S 'Domestic Manners and Sentiments' (p. 353) explains "endorred." He says, "*Endore* was the technical term of the kitchen for washing over an article of cookery with yolks of eggs, or any other liquid, to give a shiny appearance to its exterior when cooked." The word is often found in bills of fare.

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TO THE EDITORS OF MOD. LANG. NOTES :

SIRS:—Some inquiries having reached me about the word *polenus* (*polayns*) 'knee-pieces to the armor,' which occurred in one of the phrases cited from the 'Awnters of Arthur,' I subjoin the etymology. The word is found in DU CANGE under the form *polena*, "*pars vestis militaris qua genua muniuntur*;" *poulainia*, "*rostra calceorum*," *i. e.* the extravagantly long points to shoes, worn in the 14th and 15th centuries, which burgosses might wear six inches in length, nobles a foot long, and princes two feet. CHARLES VI. of France laid an interdict on these monstrosities, of which we have the following account in the Continuator of WILLIAM OF NANGIS (cited by DU CANGE):

"*Sotulares [souliers] habebant in quibus rostra longissima in parte anteriori ad modum unius cornu in longum: alii in obliquum, ut griffones habent retro et naturaliter pro ungibus gerunt . . . quae quidem rostra pouleanas gallice nominabant. Et quia res erat valde turpis, et quasi contra procreationem naturalium membrorum circa pedes, quinimo abusus naturae videbatur, ideo Dom. Rex Franciae Carolus fecit per praecones proclamari publice ne aliquis quicunque esset qui auderet talia deportare.*" POPE URBAN V. also forbade them; but fashion was stronger than kings and popes. The word, according to LITTRÉ, comes from *poullaine* (*quasi* "pellis polonica"), a kind of Polish leather of which they were made. It was applied to the beaks of ships, and the beaked and hinged knee-pieces to the leg-armor. These were sometimes fashioned like the head and beak of a monstrous bird, which opened and shut with the movements of the leg. Of the effect thus produced, an amusing caricature may be

seen in DORÉ'S illustration to BALZAC'S story, 'L'Héritier du Diable.'

The word *polainas*, meaning a kind of gaiters, is found (as a correspondent points out) in CERVANTES:—"antiparas, que . . . son medias calzas con avanpiés, que por su proprio nombre se suelen llamar *polainas*" ("Rinc. y Cort."). VALBUENO derives the word from *polvo*, "which" (as EUCLID says) "is absurd."

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BRIEF MENTION.

A second edition has appeared of 'Anecdotes Nouvelles' (New York: Charles E. Merrill). The opportunity has not been availed of to make any new choice of selections, but a few hints are introduced as to the best way to use a text in teaching beginners. These hints are suggestive, and may prove acceptable and useful to many a teacher.

'Antonymes de la langue française,' par A. MUZZARELLI (New York: W. R. Jenkins), is the production of a practical teacher of the French language, the author being known to students of French through his connection with the Sauveur Summer College of Languages. The conception of the book is a happy one and will commend itself to teachers of French as in a measure novel and in every way suggestive. We are perhaps too prone, in our process of *desynonomizing* (to adopt COLERIDGE'S word), to ignore the value of antonyms, with the sharp contrasts and the bold antitheses which they present. PROFESSOR MUZZARELLI'S work is excellently adapted to the purpose of enlarging the range of one's French vocabulary, and of impressing the meanings of words by the very difference which the study of antonyms brings out at every step.

The most recent event of interest to elementary students of Old French is the appearance of the second edition, revised and corrected, of GASTON PARIS' 'Extraits de la Chanson de Roland et de la Vie de Saint Louis,' the first edition of which was reviewed at length in these columns (January, 1889).